Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 AF-06 EA-06 EUR-12 COME-00

IO-10 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-02 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /115 W

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R 182349Z FEB 75 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6259

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: SUGAR SHIPMENTS TO U.S.

REF: STATE 017047

1. EMBOFFS MET FEB 13 WITH PEDRO ESPINOSA SOLARES, EXPORT MANAGER GOM AGENCY UNPASA WHICH IS SOLE EXPORTER MEXICAN SUGAR, TO DISCUSS OUTLOOK FOR MEXICAN SUGAR EXPORTS IN 1975 AND POINTS MENTIONED REFTEL. ESPINOSA ESTIMATES MEXICO WILL HAVE EXPORTABLE SURPLUS OF 550-600 THOUSAND METRIC TONS IN 1975. EXPORTS WILL BE MADE GENERALLY ON BASIS OF HIGHEST BIDDER, ESPINOSA CONFIRMED THAT TO DATE NO SALES TO THE U.S. FOR 1975 DELIVERY HAVE CONSUMATED. THIS HE SAID IS DUE TO DISINTEREST ON PART OF U.S. IMPORTERS WHO HE THINKS HAVE LARGE INVENTORIES ON HAND AND ARE AWAITING A DROP IN PRICE BE-FORE MAKING ADDITPONAL PURCHASES. IN MEANTIME SOME SALES TO EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS FOR 1975 DELIVERY HAVE BEEN MADE BY UNPASA. WHILE EXACT VOLUE THESE SALES NOT KNOWN, ESTIMATES RUN FROM 40-60 THOUSAND METRIC TONS. ESPINOSA THINKS U.S. TRADE WILL BE ACTIVELY SEEKING MEXICAN SUGAR BY END OF MARCH AND THAT ULTIMATELY MOST OF MEXICAN SUGAR EXPORTS IN 1975 WILL AGAIN GO TO U.S. HOWEVER, SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. IMPORTERS NOT REGAIN INTEREST IN PURCHASING FROM MEXICO

UNPASA WILL CONTINUE ENTERTAIN BIDS FROM OTHER INTERESTED BUYERS.

2. COMMENT: RECENT SALES TO WESTERN EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS MARK FIRST TIME MEXICO HAS EXPORTED TO COUNTRIES OTHER THAN U.S. IN LAST FIVE YEARS. WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT SITUATION AS STATED BY UNPASA OFFICIAL. IT BECOMING INCREASINGLY AWKWARD TO FIND MEANS OF ENCOURAGING UNPASA TO SHIP TO THE U.S. WHILE U.S. IMPORTERS SHOW NO INTEREST IN BUYING.

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TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, US, MX, UNPASA, (ESPINOSA SOLARES, PEDRO)
To: STATE

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